

## 2002 Wetlands Reserve Program

### Program Focus —

The main focus of the WRP in Kansas is to provide habitat for wildlife and migratory birds including threatened and endangered species. Dr. Victor and Carlene Hurtig, own a unique WRP project in Republic County. Dr. Hurtig made application and was approved for the first 10-year WRP restoration contract in Kansas in 1999. Construction on one of the two planned structures that is part of the project is complete. After a spring rain, the newly constructed area filled with water. One thing is obvious, the 100-plus waterfowl that immediately began using the wetland found the new watery habitat very attractive. For the Hurtig's, the aesthetic value of having waterfowl using the new wetland, in close proximity to the family farmstead, is the most positive part of the project. According to Dr. Hurtig, identifying the different species of ducks from the back porch is challenging.



## Kansas Summary

### Overview

The Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) is a voluntary program offering landowners financial and technical assistance to restore and protect wetlands and associated uplands through permanent easements, 30-year easements, and long-term restoration agreements. The program is designed to achieve maximum wetland functions and values while obtaining optimum wildlife habitat.

### Accomplishments

In FY-2002, Kansas obligated **all** of the available WRP funds for projects. Allocations were as follows: approximately \$956,000 for eight permanent easements and \$96,000 for one 30-year easement. The approved projects will retire approximately 830 acres of marginal cropland. Most of the WRP easements in the state are permanent easements with about one-fourth in 30-year easements. Since 1995, Kansas landowners and Tribes have enrolled over 10,500 acres.

In Kansas, WRP restoration projects most often fall into the following categories: pothole restoration, flood-plain restoration, and riparian corridors. All three categories have their own unique characteristics and successful outcomes. The main function of pothole restoration is for waterfowl production, while the main function for flood-plain restoration is to contain flood flows and to improve and protect water quality. Riparian corridors connect protected areas, providing a safe corridor for wildlife.

### Program Benefits

WRP is implemented through a partnership consisting of: the NRCS, local County Conservation Districts, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, county governments, and several environmental and wildlife organizations, these partners provide program participants with technical and financial assistance to:

- Restore wetland and riparian habitats critical to migratory and other wildlife
- Provide floodplain protection and flood damage reduction.
- Improve water quality.

### State contact

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## Kansas Dollars and Contracts

Congressional Districts	Fiscal Year 2002		Cumulative Total (95-02)	
	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts
District 1	\$163,555	4	--	30
District 2	\$832,244	4	--	68
District 3	0	0	--	0
District 4	\$56,400	1	--	4
<b>State Totals</b>	<b>\$150,000</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>\$8,951,077</b>	<b>102</b>

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